

Nominated for TWO Harvey Awards!

NEGATIVE BURN

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ALEXANDER**

**DAN
BERGER**

**BRIAN
BOLLAND**

**BRIAN
CLOPPER**

**STORN
COOK**

**JEFF
DeMOS**

**PAUL
FRICKE**

**SCOTT
GILLIS**

**MARK
LALIBERTE**

**MIKE
LEONARD**

**JAMES
LYLE**

**JIM
MAHFOOD**

**KEN
MEYER JR.**

**JEFF
NICHOLSON**

**JEFF
PARKER**

**DON
SIMPSON**

**STEVE
STEGELIN**

**64
PAGES**



Joe Pruett / Editor

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EARTH IN ITS
20TH CENTURY, AS
DELINEATED BY MANKIND.
HER INHABITANTS HAVE SEEN
MORE CHANGE IN THIS
HUNDRED YEARS THAN IN
ALL OF RECORDED
HISTORY.

THE TOWN OF MALDEN, ENGLAND HAS SEEN MUCH CHANGE IN THE PAST FEW DECADES, BUT HAS NOT EMBRACED IT.





AS
ANACHRONISTIC
PEOPLE
CONTINUE
TO SURFACE,
CONFUSED
NATIONS
STRUGGLE TO
CONTAIN A
PHENOMENON
THEY DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

MEANWHILE
IN AMERICA, ONE
YOUNG WOMAN
UNDERSTANDS
EXACTLY WHAT'S
HAPPENING, AND
IN FACT, PREDICTED
IT ALL...

STORY AND ART
BY

**Puff
PARKER**

LETTERING
TRACY HAMPTON
MUNSEY



FIRST, I'D LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE THE MEMBER
NATIONS FOR CONTRIBUTING
TO THIS LARGEST OF
WORLD SUMMITS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT
EVEN THOSE AS YET
UNAFFECTED NATIONS
UNDERSTAND THE
MAGNITUDE OF THE
PROBLEM WE ARE
ALL FACING...







"IN HER MASTER'S THESIS SHE OBSERVED THAT SEVERAL TRENDS AND CUSTOMS OF PAST DECADES WERE RESURFACING IN THE 90'S."



"AT FIRST HER SCOPE ENVELOPED ONLY FASHION, LANGUAGE AND ART."



"THEN SHE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE RETURN OF IDEOLOGIES AND TEMPERMENTS OF THE PAST—SOME POSITIVE, SOME OF THE DANGEROUS ORDER."



"SOON SHE BEGAN TO SEE THE PAST RETURNING, OFTEN SUBTLY, IN EVERY AREA, AS THE DECADE PROGRESSED. THAT'S WHEN HER THEORY WAS BORN."

"VOLT PUT FORTH THAT THESE CHANGES WERE NOT MERELY CYCLICAL, BUT A FUNDAMENTAL RESURGENCE OF PAST BELIEFS AND LIFESTYLES."

"HER NOTION—ALL OF HUMANITY ON SOME LEVEL FUNCTIONS AS A GROUP CONSCIOUSNESS, THIS BEING THE REASON FOR MASS CHANGES IN THOUGHT—THE AGE OF REASON AND THE GREAT VOWEL SHIFT, FOR EXAMPLE."
*SEE KARL JUNG.

"AS SOCIETY APPROACHES THE NEW MILLENNIUM, A MILESTONE IN HUMAN LINEAR THOUGHT, IT SEEKS TO PREPARE ITSELF FOR A CULMINATING EVENT, ONE ANTICIPATED AND CREATED BY THIS VERY THOUGHT PROCESS."

"IT'S PREPARING ITSELF BY TRIGGERING THAT WHICH WAS THOUGHT IMPOSSIBLE IN HUMANS—GENETIC RACIAL MEMORY / BRINGING BACK STRONGER BELIEF SYSTEMS TO FORTIFY."

WILL THIS
MASS-WHATEVER
AFFECT US ALL?

NOT
LIKELY.

THE LIMITS OF
THE RESURGENCE WERE
POSTULATED BY DOCTOR OF
PSYCHOLOGY ALGERNON
FABEL, THE FIRST
ACADEMIC TO BACK
VOLT'S THEORY.

"FABEL BROUGHT IN
HIS OBSERVATIONS
OF HOW MODERN
CIVILIZATION HAS
BECOME HOMOGEN-
IZED AND DIFFUSE,
TOO UNSURE OF
ITSELF IN MANY
CASES TO
PREVENT
RESURGENT
THOUGHT."

DOCTOR
FABEL

HE BELIEVES THAT ALL
TRUE MODERN THINKERS,
WHOSE MENTALITIES ARE A
NATURAL PROGRESSION OF
HUMAN THOUGHT AND ITS
DIVERSE INFLUENCES, WILL
BE UNAFFECTED.

THEY, AND PEOPLE WHO
ARE SIMPLY STRONG-WILLED...
WHICH PERHAPS APPLIES
TO MOST OF US.

HA
HA
HA

"FABEL WENT ON TO DIRECT
THEORY TOWARDS VOLT
HERSELF, STATING THAT HER
BRAIN HELD THE CULMINATION
OF HISTORICAL THOUGHT—
WHICH IS WHY SHE WAS ABLE
TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING
FIRST. THE DOCTOR BELIEVES
HER TO BE INEXORABLY LINKED
WITH THIS PHENOMENA, AND
THAT IT WILL PROGRESSIVELY
AFFECT HER IN SOME
UNDETERMINED FASHION."

THAT'S
FASCINATING FOR
THE GIRL, BUT HOW DOES
IT HELP US CONTAIN
THIS SITUATION?

YOU SEE, IF
DR. FABEL IS CORRECT,
PICKING HER BRAIN WILL PROVE
INVALUABLE TO CONTROLLING
THE RESURGENCE.

VOLT AND
FABEL ARE CURRENTLY
IN THE STATES HIKING THE
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL TO
ESCAPE MEDIA ATTENTION AS
THEY WORK ON THEIR
THEORIES.

TWO CORE AGENTS
HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED
TO BRING THEM BACK, THAT
WE MAY BENEFIT FROM
THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

AND IF OUR
MODEL BRAIN IS
AS CONNECTED TO THE
PHENOMENON AS WE BELIEVE,
THE ANSWER MAY BE AS
SIMPLE AS KILLING
MISS VOLT.



HOLD UP, GIRL! I THOUGHT WE WERE OUT HERE TO TALK IDEAS!

I THOUGHT WE WERE DOING THIS TO MAKE YOU LOSE WEIGHT.

OKAY—WHAT'S YOUR IDEA?



AREN'T YOU CURIOUS AS TO WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD, YET? IT'S BEEN ALMOST FIVE MONTHS.

NOPE—MISSIN' A GOOD TRACT OF TIME IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN TEST HOW ACCURATE OUR NEW THEORIES ARE. WHUE!

MY IDEA IS TO SIT DOWN. WE'VE BEEN GOING UP FOR THE PAST TWO HOURS.

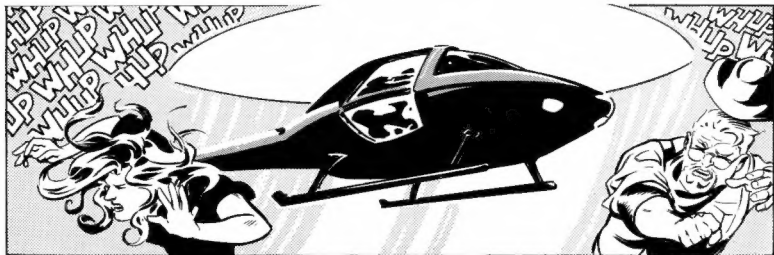


LOOK, SOME PEOPLE OFF THE TRAIL.

MAYBE MORE INDIANS LOOKING FOR THEIR ORIGINAL LAND, LIKE WE RAN INTO IN WYOMING.

YEAH, THEY—

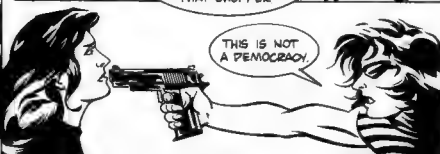
—HEY, DO YOU HEAR A SOUND? A KIND OF BEATING SOUND?



NOTES ON THE CORE: MY FAVORITE FRUIT~

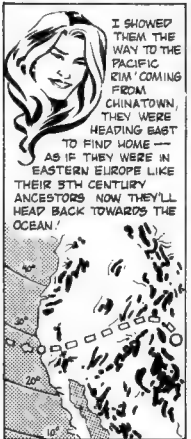
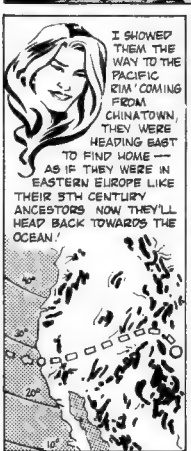
This was my first encounter with the secret organization known as Core. The large goon pilot had a New Zealand accent and was accordingly referred to as Kiwi. But all the talking was done by the woman called Mango, apparently short for a longer Italian name. The two first tried to convince Fabel and me that Core was a benevolent operation, dedicated to studying the Resurgence...











END

MR. MAMOULIAN
HUGE RODENT

5-11
88

ROLLAND

37



HI THERE! MIND IF WE SIT DOWN?



THIS IS MY FRIEND LUCINDA BOURBACH. HER FRIENDS CALL HER BUBBLES. ACTUALLY IT WAS YOUR DAD WHO FIRST CALLED YOU BUBBLES BECAUSE OF YOUR ...

REALLY, SU! IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE MY ENTIRE LIFE HISTORY AT THIS POINT?!



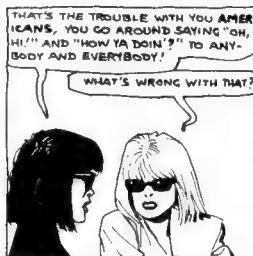
ER... WOULD YOU LIKE A COFFEE OR SOMETHING? I COULD JUST POP IN AND GET IT.

THANKS. LEMON TEA FOR ME, THANKS.



ALL RIGHT, SU. WHAT'S THE STORY ON THIS ONE? ... WHAT'S HIS NAME?

OH, HE'S JUST SOME GUY I BUMP INTO EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE. I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME. WE TALK SOMETIMES.



THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU AMERICANS, YOU GO AROUND SAYING "OH, HI!" AND "HOW YA DOIN'?" TO ANYBODY AND EVERYBODY!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?



WELL IN YOUR CASE YOU'VE COLLECTED THE BIGGEST MENAGERIE OF SOCIAL INADEQUATES ON GOD'S EARTH! I MEAN LOOK AT THIS CHARACTER FOR INSTANCE. HE LOOKS LIKE... WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE!? ... SOME SORT OF HUGE RODENT!



WELL I THINK HE'S QUITE NICE. HE REMINDS ME OF MY UNCLE GUNTHER. AND ANYWAY I'M AN ARTIST! I CAN AFFORD TO BE SEEN WITH UNCONVENTIONAL TYPES, AND ANYWAY YOU BRITS ARE FAR TOO SHOOTY!

SUSAN! YOU DON'T RANCE HIM DO YOU !!!?



BUBBLES... IF YOU MUST KNOW, I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT DREAMING ABOUT GETTING MY HANDS ON HIS SWEATING, FLACID, PULSATING BODY!



OH GOD!! YOU'RE DISGUSTING! HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA



WHAT'S THE JOKE?



Check on Cupid
and Blitzen. Tubbs
There's a sale on
venison gyros and
cold cuts at the
Greek place down
the street

You're
sick, punk



And you're
sunk, Nick

Wha--?



BOONDOGGLE

Holden and Walt had better be showing up real soon, Shelby I don't even wanna know what kind of chaos those two are mixed up in now

Hey They're only ten minutes late Brooklyn. 'Sides, they don't always end up causing trouble it only seems it

Brook! Shel! Has Walt run by here yet? Preferably with a lil' cobblepot full of pocketchange?

No? Great Undone by a storefront Santa

HEY, CREW! GANGWAY! QUICK! INCOMING OPOSSUM! HIT THE WAFFLE HOUSE AND HOLD THE DOOR FOR ME!

Man I couldn't believe a guy that fat could run so fast until I saw his padding come loose Another childhood myth mercilessly dispelled



'Easy enough
to lose once I
ran through
Toys 'R' Us,
tho' Heh

Don'cha guys
feel the least
bit of guilt from
stealing from
Father Xmas?

Guilty? Please!
The Santa imposter
was raisin' dough
for the poor!
That be us!



'Xactly!



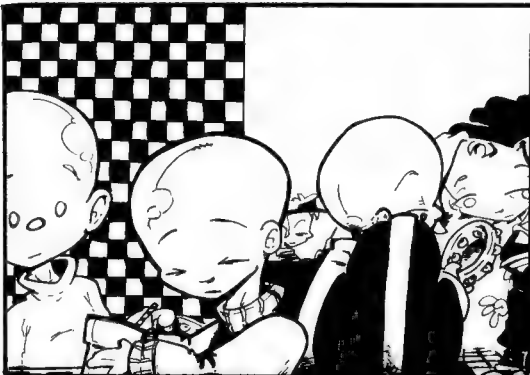
A battlecry
from the willfully
unemployed

Yer jest jealous,
ye of the McJob



Hey, Walt
Hare Krishnas

Yeah yeah
Merry Christmas
to you, too
Holden



Not "Merry Christmas"--
"Hare Krishnas." Like,
y'know, bald Buddha-esque
dudes with tamborines
and nightgowns



Voila!
Instant
ATM!

Two bucks,
a handful of nickels
and a stick of Fruit Stripe
bubblegum? How can I
afford to buy presents
with this kinda cash?

Well, you know
Walter, you can always
swipe this lovely pair of
plexiglass salt & pepper
shakers for your folks
Decorative, yet
useful



What's with the
people in this town?
Boondoggle's got to
be the stingiest town
in the continent!
Nothin' but a pack
of greedy, selfish



FLE H

Heads up, Walt
Cranky Kris Kringles
at eleven o'clock

Peachy First
storefront Santas,
then Baldy here
What next?
Street mimes?

Oh well
better grab
what loot that
I can

Hello, brother
Care to give an
offering to Krishna?



Bad news
'Looks like the
Santa Clods are
heading this
way.

Cheez!
Quick, Crew!
Fill yer pockets
and cram the
loot!



Heya, Picard!
All my cash is
already spent,
but accept this
crockpot as my
tribute to Allah!

Krishna

Whatever!
It's yours!



Heh heh
this should be
entertaining



THOK!

Chromedome!
Gimme back my
cashpot, ya
freak!



Check it out
Hare Krishnas
for all

... and to all,
a good fight!
Ha!



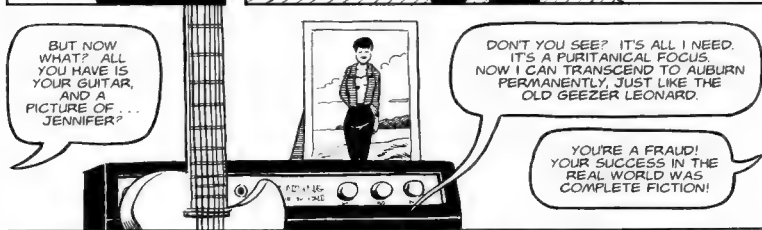
I suggest
we leave 'fore
it gets too
late.

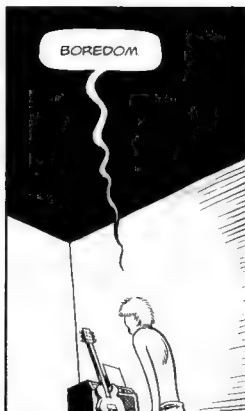


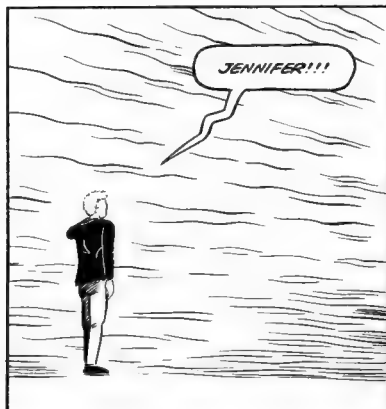
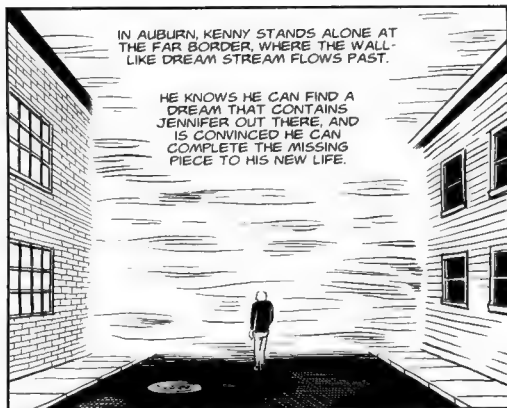
Wow An
over-commercialized
manifestation of the
utmost Christian holiday
attacking a pack of Hindus
Anyone else feel like we're in
the midst of some twisted,
urban religious war?

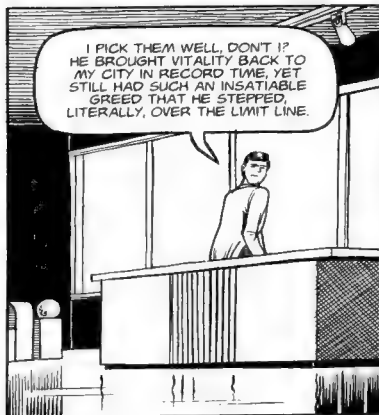
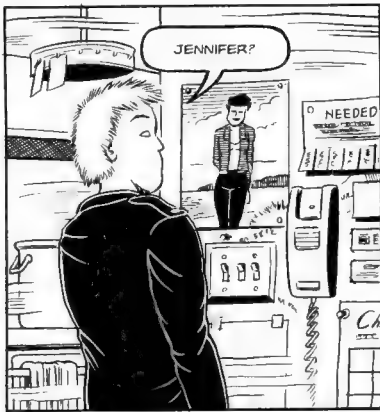


NO REGRETS {7} the man who disappeared









EPILOGUE

THE NEWLY RE-UNITED THREESOME FEARED THEY WOULD FOREVER BE TRAPPED IN KENNY'S OBSESSIVE DREAMS, BUT THEY ABRUPTLY ENDED AFTER THAT ODD CONFRONTATION. THEY DECIDED TO SHARE A PLACE IN A NEW CITY NONE OF THEM WERE FAMILIAR WITH. MIKE AND KIM HAVE EACH OTHER, AND WITH THEIR SUPPORT, CARL IS CLEANING UP.



NO REGRETS CONTINUES AS A THREESOME IN THE SHED OUT BACK. THEY FEEL THEY ARE A BIT TOO OLD TO REALLY MAKE IT IN TODAY'S MUSIC BIZ, BUT THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE WITH AUBURN HAS JUMP-STARTED THEIR LIVES IN NEW DIRECTIONS



KENNY WAS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL THE DAY OF THE CONFRONTATION. HIS INSISTENCE THAT HE WAS IN A SLEEPING DREAM STATE AT ALL TIMES LED THE DOCTORS TO A DIAGNOSIS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA. HE WAS AWARDED SDI AND FOOD STAMPS AND LIVES IN A LITTLE SECTION 8 APARTMENT COMPLEX. THE BAND HELPS HIM WITH GROCERY SHOPPING AND SUCH NOW AND THEN, BUT FOR THE MOST PART HE IS UNRESPONSIVE



HE MUMBLES ABOUT HIS DREAM, WITH THE TELEPHONE SOMEONE'S ON THE LINE, THEN SHE'S NOT. HE CAN NEVER TELL.



MISTER DRAWING BOARD BELLY



Meet **Mr. Drawing Board Belly** -- he draws pictures for a living. All **sorts** of pictures! But mostly for the "funny books"



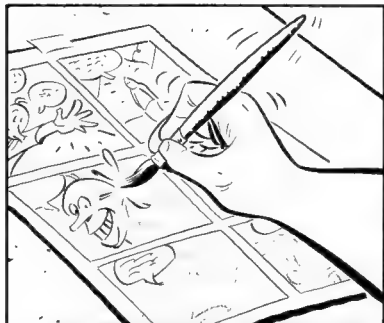
Mr. Drawing Board Belly is known for his clean, simple style. If you grew up in the U.S.A., you've probably read a Mr. Drawing Board Belly story and not even **realized** it!



Mr. Drawing Board Belly's comics are never among the biggest sellers, but they always turn a healthy profit for his publishers. You won't see his name on any of the stories he draws because he draws the kind of stories no one ever signs their names to -- and that suits Mr. Drawing Board Belly **just fine!**



Mr. Drawing Board Belly's stories are always **wholesome** -- the subject matter is suitable for young and old alike. If he can't show it to the in-laws, he doesn't draw it. He doesn't even **think** it!



Mr. Drawing Board Belly doesn't go in for **fads** or **gimmicks** -- his drawing style is much the same as when he started in this business all those many years ago.



Mr. Drawing Board Belly works at home. He has a comfortable studio up in his attic. But he still keeps regular business hours, just as if he were going to a **real** job!



Drawing funny books for a living is a lot of fun, but it's also a **serious business**. There's a lot of **hard work** in sitting down all day drawing cartoons — you'd be **surprised**! It requires concentration, dedication and perseverance. Luckily, Mr. Drawing Board Belly has **all** of these qualities **and more**!



Sticking to a **daily routine** is important for a funny book artist. You can't turn out a mountain of drawings with poor eating habits. Mr. Drawing Board Belly learned at an early age not to sit down to work on an empty stomach.



Late in his working day, just when Mr. Drawing Board Belly is about to run out of gas, he is roused by the sounds of the creaking steps leading to his studio. It's **snacktime**!



Mr. Drawing Board Belly knows better than to miss a cookie break. A grumbling tummy is not conducive to the creative process.



Funny book artists don't get much **exercise** — but that's okay. Their **minds** travel to places we can hardly imagine. These journeys bring joy to countless boys and girls.



After a long hard day, Mr. Drawing Board Belly has earned his **rest**. He's gonna **need** it, for there will surely be more funny books to draw tomorrow!



SCREAMING DODO STUDIOS



P R E S E N T S

CASCADE

When mortal belief in magic and myth waned, the magical creatures of Earth found their lifeforces fading. Rather than face apathy and extinction, they banded together and, with their waning magic, migrated to another dimension...a dimension where their combined magic could sustain them, a magical haven called *Cascade*. There they thrived and a multimystical society was born.



I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU



"THE LAST TIME
I LET THEM GET
TO ME--"

"THE SCHOOL HAD
TO SUMMON THE
TOWN WARLOCK
TO LINDO MY
HANDIWORK."

"I WAS BARRED
FROM SCHOOL
FOR TWO DAYS."

"MY PARENTS
REAMED ME OUT
FOR MY LACK OF
SELF-CONTROL."

"CONTROL,--"

"IT'S MY ONLY
COMPANION..."

WHY DON'T YOU
TELL THE
CLASS THE
ANSWER?
NAME ONE
OF THE TWO
PROponents
PLEASE.

ZED?

HUH?

ME?

YES.

UH--

UHM--

UHHHHHHH

LORD
MARRI
?

PLEASE
SEE
ME AT
RECESS,
ZED.

YEE
DEAD
MEAT.
LIZARD-
BREATH.

ANYONE
ELSE
HAVE
THE ANSWER
?





TURN
ME TO
STONE!

NO!

"I PROMISED
MY PARENTS
I WOULDN'T."



THE
SHOUTING'S
COMIN'
FROM
OVER HERE,
MOM!



ZED,
SOMEONE'S
COMING.

"I HATE MY
POWERS."



"I JUST WISH..."

LET'S
SCRAM.



"I DIDN'T NEED
TO HIDE BEHIND
THESE STUPID
SHADES."

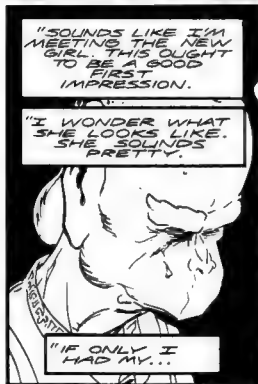
MOMMY,
OVER HERE!
IT'S A LITTLE
BOY, HE'S
HURT.



"I WISH THERE
WAS SOMEONE..."

OH, CLAIR!
MAYBE
REGISTERING
YOU HERE
IN SUCH A
ROUGH
ENVIRONMENT
ISN'T WISE.

SUBB



"SOUNDS LIKE I'M
MEETING THE NEW
GIRL. THIS OUGHT
TO BE A GOOD
FIRST
IMPRESSION."

"I WONDER WHAT
SHE LOOKS LIKE.
SHE SOUNDS
PRETTY."

"IF ONLY I
HAD MY..."

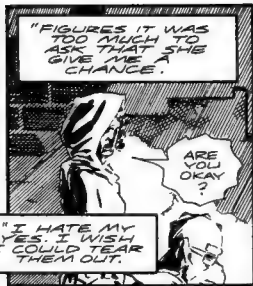


GLASSES!
I THINK
THAT'S
WHY HE
KEEPS
FLUMBLING
AROUND!



THANK
YOU.

"SHE SEEMS FRIENDLY AND
ALL, BUT SO WERE ALL THE
OTHERS UNTIL THEY..."



If you want to meet more denizens of Cascade, ask your retailer to order *Fever Pitch* #1 for you. It'll be out in November and promises magic, mayhem and mischief as only Brian Clopper can deliver. Check out the snazzy ad in this issue for more details about this new self-publishing event!!

DISRUPTING SOCIETY IN NOVEMBER

NOT EXACTLY A CAST OF
THOUSANDS,--

FEVER PITCH

BRIAN CLOPPER



BUT PRETTY DARN CLOSE!

IN A NUTSHELL:

We've got intergalactic bounty hunters, a criminal chef on the lam, feisty aliens, sassy spaceships, fatalistic crustaceans, vile space pirates, bulky war droids, a pivotal bar of soap, a dimension hopping weevil, a little drummer boy (literally), a cosmic counselor, a familially troubled mortal, a detached father, the ultimate stuporhero and his sidekick, alien berserkers, overzealous camera crews, zombie couch potatoes, a magical realm populated by all manner of creatures, a fast talking troll who leaves his audience speechless, a sinister warlock, a siren, a pubescent wizard in training, nauseating fanboys, sly background jokes for the meticulous reader and much, much more!!



SCREAMING DODO STUDIOS

"Brian Clopper's *Fever Pitch* is a thoroughly enjoyable, madcap, fun-for-the-whole-family comic that you should definitely give a second look. The writing is witty and the art and production are top-notch and professional. Don't miss this one!"

Joe Pruett
Negative Burn
Kilroy Is Here

"*Fever Pitch* is a delightful new series. I'm glad Brian Clopper is joining the self-publishing market. We need new and original stuff like his."

B.C. Boyer
Hilly Rose

For a free flyer featuring background on *Fever Pitch*, send s.a.s.e. to:

Screaming Dodo Studios
21 Valley Park Court
Damascus, MD 20872

Pester your favorite retailer this summer to order gobs of Fever Pitch.

WHITERIVER,
ARIZONA.
TODAY



AWWWW,
MOM!

I DON'T
WANNA GO
TO GRAMMA'S! IT'S
BORING THERE!
THERE'S **NOTHING**
TO DO!

AND
IT SMELLS
FUNNY!

FUNNY HOW THINGS CHANGE...



WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG, YOU
DEMAND THAT THE WORLD BE
FULL OF EXCITEMENT, EACH
DAY A DIFFERENT CHALLENGE,
SOMETHING NEW.

BOREDOM'S YOUR
GREATEST ENEMY, AND
YOU'LL DO WHATEVER IT
TAKES TO DEFEAT IT.

© 1994 MIKE

WAIT FIFTY YEARS. VARIETY
DOESN'T MEAN MUCH, THEN.
YOU DON'T WANT DIFFERENT,
YOU WANT TO BE
COMFORTABLE



**Door
Mah**
STOLEN
YEARS

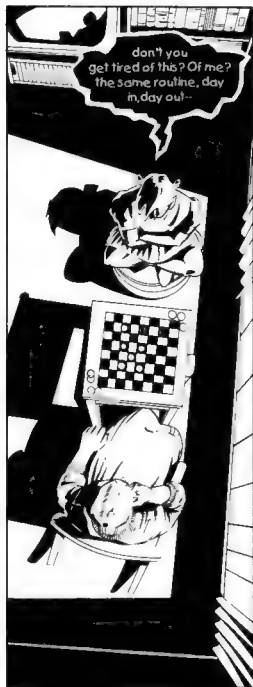
GOOD OL' 1:15. ALWAYS
ON TIME.

YOU DON'T WANT CHANGE.
EXCITEMENT'S NOT GOOD
FOR YOUR HEART, THEY SAY.



YOU GET USED TO THINGS
BEING THE WAY THEY ARE--

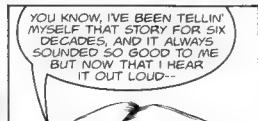






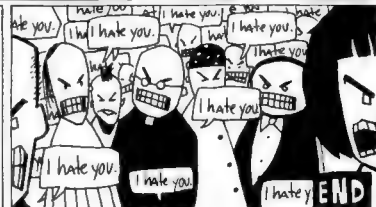
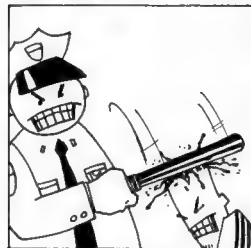
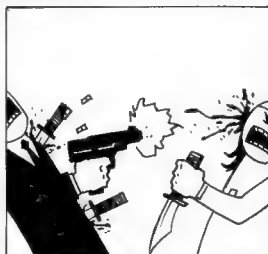
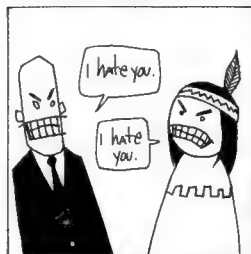
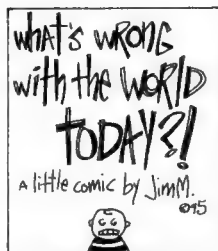




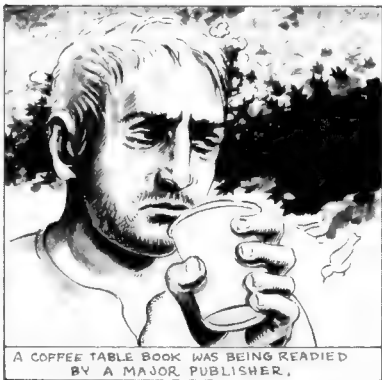








END





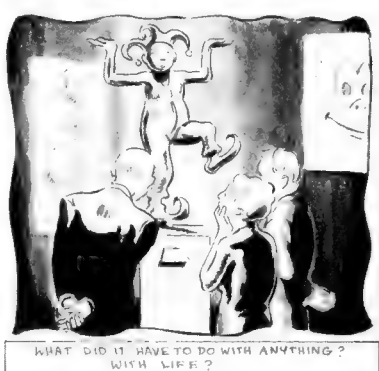
HE WAS AN ART STAR.



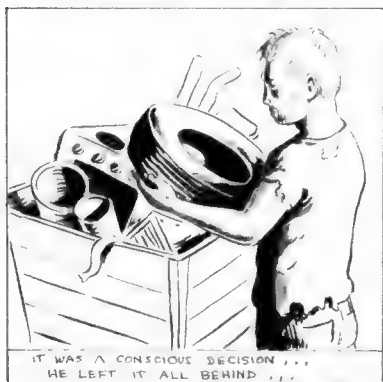
HE HAD THE PROVERBIAL "ALL".



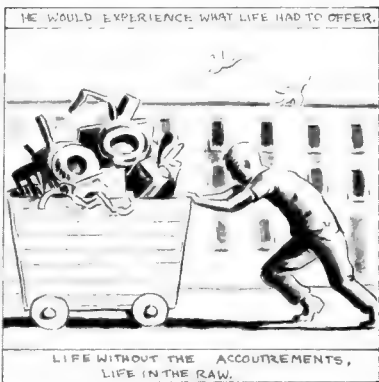
THEN HE HAD HIS PERSONAL CRISIS.
WHAT WAS IT "ALL" FOR?



WHAT DID IT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
WITH LIFE?

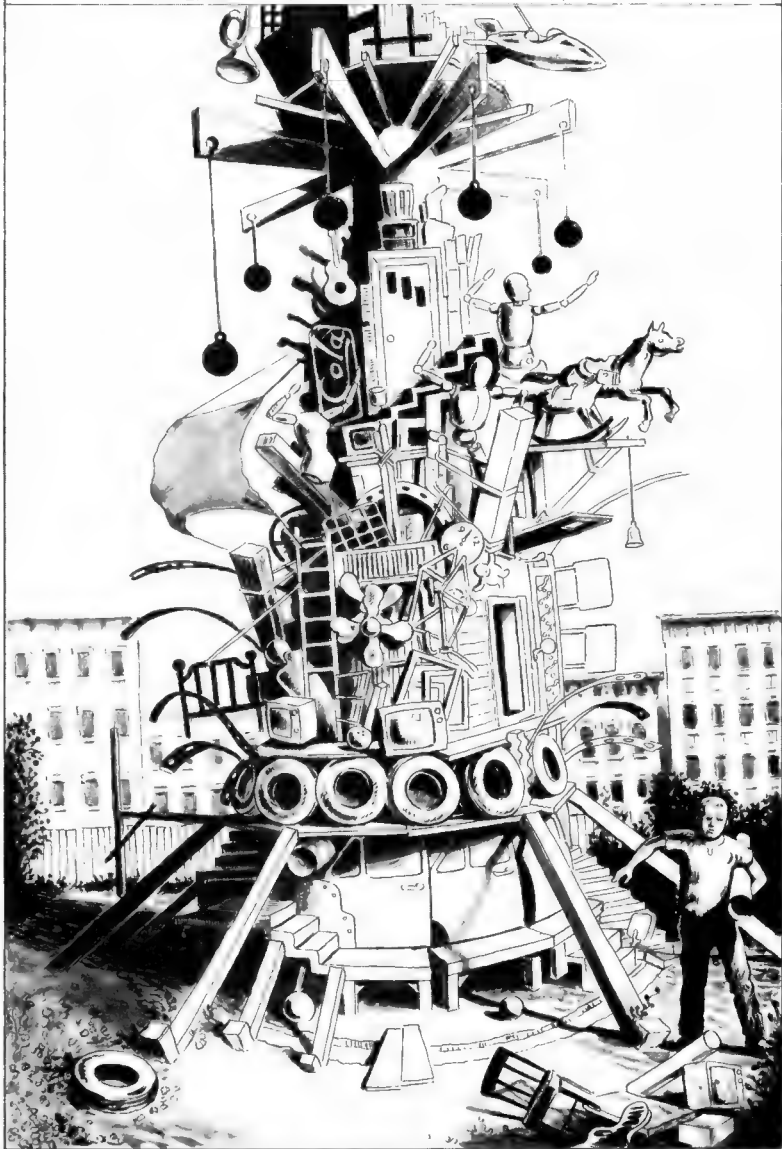


IT WAS A CONSCIOUS DECISION...
HE LEFT IT ALL BEHIND...

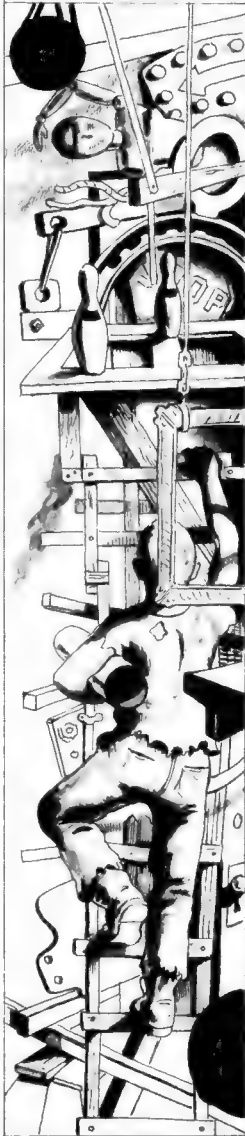


LIFE WITHOUT THE ACCOUTREMENTS,
LIFE IN THE RAW.

HE LEARNED THAT THE IMPULSE DIDN'T DIE.



DESPITE HIS BEST INTENTIONS,
HE WAS AN ART STAR AGAIN.



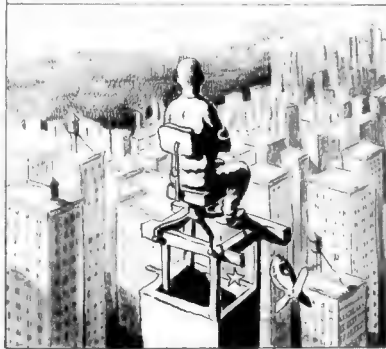
JAPANESE TOURISTS FLOCKED
TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE
"URBAN MONUMENT."



GERMAN ART MAGAZINES
SOUGHT HIM OUT FOR
INTERVIEWS.

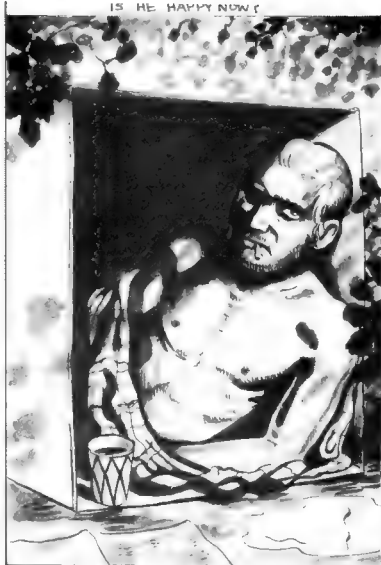


THE NEIGHBORHOOD REGARDED HIM SOMEWHAT OF
A KOOK... BUT THEY LOVED HIM NONETHELESS.





IS HE HAPPY NOW?



HE DOESN'T REALLY GIVE IT MUCH CONSIDERATION ANYMORE. DOES THAT REVEAL SOMETHING?

HE SIZES UP THE VACANT LOT LIKE IT'S A BLANK CANVAS. SPACE TO BE MANIPULATED. ANTICIPATION GRIPS HIM.



LEO COTTENOIR,
AGED 71.

IT
BREAKS MY
HEART...



TO SEE
HOW FAR WE'VE
COME. THIS MODERN
DAY LIVING DON'T
MAKE MUCH SENSE
TO ME.

I CAN REMEMBER THE TEEVEE
MAN CLEARLY, TELLING ME AND
MY DORIS HOW YOU'D NEVER
BE LONELY WITH A TEEVEE
IN YOUR HOUSE.

BUT ALL IT
SAYS TO ME IS
THAT THESE DAYS
THE WHOLE WORLD
IS LONELY...AND
REGRETFUL.

YOU WANT
SOME? IT'S REAL
SCOTCH.

NO?



AH...SAID TO
MAKE YOUR LIFE
LONGER--TAKEN IN
MODERATION
OF COURSE.

I'M AS
FIT AS A
FIDDLE.



WOLF

"I ARRIVED NOT QUITE A TEENAGER IN LANDER, WYOMING IN NINETEEN-THIRTY-SEVEN. TOWN WAS FULL OF SCOTS SHEEPMEN. I'D HEARD THAT'S WHERE THE WORK WAS."



"THE SCOTS NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT WHERE THEY CAME FROM. AS IF THAT WAS THE PAST AND THERE WAS ONLY TIME FOR THE PRESENT. THE WORK WAS HARD. THERE WAS A COUNTRY TO BUILD."



NEW YEAR'S WAS DIFFERENT THOUGH. THEY SURE KNEW HOW TO CELEBRATE NEW YEARS. I HAD MY FIRST DROP OF WHISKEY AS A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD. THOUGHT MY THROAT AND HEAD WAS GONNA EXPLODE. HEH, HEH.



IT WAS ALWAYS THE CASE THAT THE WOLF WAS THE SWORN ENEMY OF THE COMMON MAN. IT WAS ON OUR LAND, THREATENING OUR LIVESTOCK.

YOU'D HEAR STORIES OF HOW THEY'D ATTACK MEN.





In the history of the white man's arrival in the West, the wolf has become one of the most telling chapters. As the cattle barons moved into the Rockies from Texas in the 1800s, the wolf was a competitor for land as well as an emblem of the untamable nature so feared by Victorians.

The vengeance against wolves was virtually pathological. While the government paid \$5 for an American Indian scalp, bounties for wolves reached \$30 each in 1902 in Wyoming. Cubs were clubbed to death in their dens, adults were tortured and burned.

So setting a tone which remains to the present day.

Yet at the start of the century, Jack London's mythic books "Call of the Wild" and "White Fang," nominally about wolves and large dogs in the Northland, helped the Californian author become one of the highest-paid in the world.

Taken from an article by Ros Davidson, SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY.



FIFTY
YEARS
AGO



"I WAS TENDING SHEEP IN THE
OWL CREEK MOUNTAINS"



"I HEARD A COYOTE,
SO I DECIDED BEST
TO LOOK AROUND."



"A YOUNG WOLF CAME
RUNNING FROM SOME
ROCKS. I NEVER HAD
TO THINK TWICE ABOUT
SHOOTING AT IT."



"DIDN'T REALIZE QUITE
HOW SIGNIFICANT A KILL
IT WAS AT THE TIME."





I NOW THINK
THE WOLF WAS
SPOOKED. IT WAS
RUNNING AWAY
FROM ME.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I
NEVER KILLED IT. IT BEING A NATIVE
ANIMAL OF OUR COUNTRY. GOD
HAVING PUT IT THERE



I HOPE
I'LL SEE THE
ANIMAL BACK IN
MY LIFETIME.
YES SIR,
I DO.

IN 1995, A WYOMING JUDGE
CLEARED THE WAY FOR A U.S.
WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT PLAN
TO REINTRODUCE THE CANIS
LUPUS, THE GREY WOLF, IM-
PORTED FROM CANADA, TO
THE AREA.



A SHEEP HERDER NAMED LEO
COTTENOIR SHOT THE LAST
WOLF IN WYOMING IN 1945.



THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
AND VARIOUS HUNTING INTER-
ESTS CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE
PLAN IN THE FEDERAL COURT.
IF THE PLAN IS HALTED AT ANY
TIME, THOSE WOLVES ALREADY
INTRODUCED WILL BE SHOT
DEAD AND REMOVED.

This is a

The dream starts here.

My family and I are
lost in a huge metal
wasteland...and the
water is rising.

But I know
of a way
out.

Recurring



On the way I passed
some important men
saying important things.

It's then that I remember
why 'starting her up' is so
important to me.



It's because of a homeless guy and his baby living in one of the huge pipes.

Get to



I had to hurry!



-had to get there before-



it started!

RUMBLE



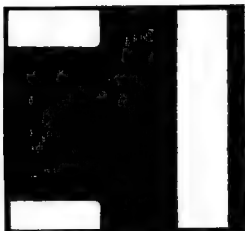
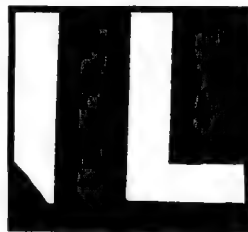
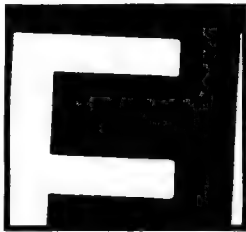
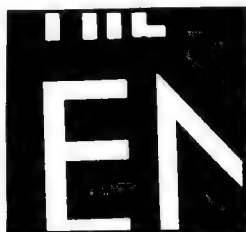
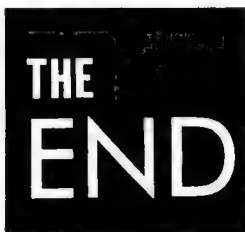
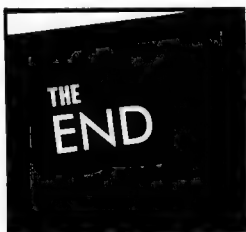
but the guy just keeps sleeping...



and I always wake to the sounds of thundering water and a baby's cries.

HUMANITY IN EXTREMIS:

by MARK C. LALIBERTE.
NARRATIVE IN REVERSE



Peter de Bruin
The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Joe,

I've been enjoying the past 6 or 7 issues of NB without feeling the urge to express my appreciation for the book. After reading #32, however, I decided it was time to end my silence. What impressed me the most was that not one, but several of the stories in NB 32 prompted me to sit back for a minute and think about what I had just read. Many people who write letters to comic books use the word "thought-provoking" wherever they see fit, but to tell you the truth, I've not read many comic book stories that had that effect on me. The opening story of NB 32, "Survivors", is probably the best example. I must admit I've never really been aware of the things that went on in Southeast Asia and therefore I want to thank you for presenting this story. Very interesting and very educational.

For me, the other highlights of this issue are "Kilroy Is Here" (which didn't come as a surprise to me, since I've been very impressed with all the previous Kilroy stories I've read so far) and "Shades of Gray". After reading this last story, I feel it's only fair to compliment you on your editorial skills. I had never heard of "Shades of Gray" before and this brilliant short story was enough to whet my appetite. Fortunately for me, it was followed by a page that contained all the information I needed: how many issues of SoG have already been published and how I can obtain them? To me, advertising relatively unknown comics in this fashion is what NB is all about.

Again, my compliments.

Glad you finally broke your silence, Peter. You have Joyce Brabner and Mark Badger to thank for their exploratory story of the horrors of SE Asia. It makes you think, doesn't it?

Also glad you enjoyed SHADES OF GRAY so much. It seems like that short story has opened many eyes to the wonderful comic of James J. Gownley. Be sure to make your local comic shop start carrying this title. It deserves to be carried.

Olav Beemer
Zeist
The Netherlands

Dear Joe,

Wow, **NEGATIVE BURN** #32 actually contained merely eleven features—something we haven't seen all that often since the page count was hiked up to a staggering sixty-four. Truth to tell, I feel this should become a standard in these pages. Too often recently, the sheer volume of different stories in one issue was a tad overwhelming, so a few longer tales here and there won't hurt.

"Survivors" was one of those longer stories, and if future tales of equal length would be half as intriguing and fascinating as this one, that would be a good reason to indeed take me up on my aforementioned suggestion to throw in an occasional longer feature every issue. Joyce Brabner's storytelling is involved and extremely human, while Mark Badger's artwork fits in perfectly with that style. The combination of the drama and the tension made this one a tale not easily forgotten, leaving me an impressed reader.

"Mr. Mamoulia" surprisingly hit almost the same note as the "Survivors" feature did before—one of sheer terror at human cruelty. Just the thought of that spiked metal collar made me bounce off several walls.

Speaking of which, "The Wall" was the best installment of this very issue when it comes to pure storytelling. Stefan Petruca really has climbed my personal chart of the top ten favorite writers over the past year, but this one really was a superlative read.

Great dialogue, aided by the decent Craig Gilmore art had me fascinated from the first to the last panel. Too bad, though, that it was a tad predictable that it was the wall talking there. Still, the dialogue was lovely, so I'll gladly forgive that one single minor flaw.

"Spastic Chipmunk" turned out to be another great Paul Fricke production. In fact, the diversity of the mood in his stories continues to amaze me, while the artwork remains rather impressive. The clear lines and openness of his work make everything he does visually very attractive. Make sure to keep Paul around in these pages some more.

The "Kilroy Is Here" feature made me wonder why I hadn't heard of artist Troy Nixey before. His art is so suited for a dark and sober Kilroy tale about human injustice and suffering that I wouldn't mind at all if he pops up at one point or another in an upcoming issue of Kilroy's regular comic. Storywise, this one was powerful, showing that even in America, far away from the bloody battlegrounds all around the world, there can still be the need for Kilroy's vengeance.

"No Regrets" is thus far shaping up nicely, the good artwork still being the main attracting element here. Then again, I must admit that this very episode did show a lot of potential

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P.O. Box 893 Acworth, GA 30101

storywise, as Kenny's actions suddenly made things a whole lot more complicated and interesting. Needless to say, I'm looking forward for more of this in the next issue.

For me, "Shades of Gray" was the issue's ultimate highlight, both artwise and storywise. While until I started reading this installment I had never ever heard of either James Gownley or his creation, I quickly came to the conclusion that was an error I had to correct in the shortest time possible. My word—can this talented creator handle realistic human conversations! Echoes of STRANGERS IN PARADISE were resonating all through the story, while the art brought a memory of A DISTANT SOIL. Combined, these two make a perfect package. Thanks for opening my eyes again to another gem in the field—I appreciate the efforts of presenting lesser known comics as they keep me on my toes.

In closing, this certainly seems to become the longest winning streak of NEGATIVE BURN. I haven't been able to spot an issue with below par quality for several months now! Keep it up.

I have a feeling that if James Gownley moved to The Netherlands he would be a major star! I'll make sure to mention that possibility to him.

Since you seem to be a Stefan Petruca fan, be sure to check out THE BANDY MAN miniseries starting this August from Caliber Comics. Stefan teams up with the rest of the X-FILES creative team of Charlie Adlard and Miran Kim (who's also doing the interior pencils for issue #2, as well as all three covers), along with Jill Thompson. It's a stellar line-up and an outstanding story.

You can find Troy Nixey over at Dark Horse pretty soon. I agree with you in that I really enjoyed his work on the "Kilroy" short. I'd love to have him come around for another, if his schedule permits it. Only time will tell.

Edward Douglas
76453.767@compuserve.com

Hey, Joe!

It's your lucky day!! Nope. Olav Beemer hasn't moved to Georgia; it's time for my review of NEGATIVE BURN #31!!! (Sorry, I haven't reviewed this earlier, but I figured that I'd give ya some time to recuperate and catch up from

UKCAC.)

#31 begins with "The Abyss Also Grasps", a strangely bizarre tale, ironically introduced by one of my favorite (and scariest) authors, Andrew Vachas, and dealing with roommates, psychosis, neuroses and murder that reminds me a bit of DeMatteis' BROOKLYN DREAMS, except Kevin O'Neill's artwork is much more abstract and weirder. I've never heard of Aldyth Bentane, but she has an interesting writing style as well as a lot of interesting (and scary) thoughts in this one. The story didn't really flow that well, but it was rather odd and entertaining.

The "Mr. Mamouliau" strip goes in my "Didn't get the joke" file. (Oh, well. Brian was almost on a roll there.)

Then, my jaw dropped when I realized what I've been waiting for months was finally here...the preview of the new Bendis series, JINX! Once again, Brian shows that he's one of the premiere storytellers of the 90's with his realistic dialogue and his incredible plot twists. Brian has already shown that he has a way of depicting ruthless women such as Lauren in AKA GOLDFISH, and I like Jinx as a character immediately after being fooled by her little trick in order to catch the bail jumper. I wasn't sure if this snippet would be a part of the new series or is just a taster for what to expect, but I can tell already that I'm going to love this series!

Jaime's sketchbook wasn't that impressive, so I just glanced over it on the way to the next installment of Nat Gertler's "The Factor." Now I have to say that I love this sort of story and Nat put another interesting twist on this mysterious new superhero without ever actually showing him. The ending was as unexpected as the story and the only thing which I really didn't like about this was the art. Alex Grecian's style looks (for lack of better words) sloppy and doesn't seem at all suited for the story. Otherwise, this was a terrific read.

"Dream Lovers" was a surprisingly serious piece from the two Pauls, whose humorous work has become NEGATIVE BURN mainstays, but unfortunately, it wasn't really my cup of tea.

Jeff Nicholson's "No Regrets" seems to have gone off on a tangent as we're now in a dream world called Auburn,

where one of them is trying to resuscitate the band No Regrets. This is still an interesting story and I'm curious to see where it goes. (And the first four issues of FATHER AND SON are sitting in my "to read" box.)

"Methadone Club #2" is another one of those filler pieces that I read without it having any effect on me. Phil's trying an interesting art style, but I don't like it as much as his other work.

Being a vegetarian, I was pretty scared when I read the title of the next piece "He Wouldn't Eat Meat" and saw that this was an "Empty Love Story." Despite my apprehensions, I absolutely loved this story! Steve Darnall and Tom Gianni's hilarious send up of 50's Romance Comics really hit home and had me giggling incessantly. I love this sort of stuff! Of course, I can see why Janet might have gotten freaked out by her relationship with Kent, since we all know that vegetarians are animals in bed, but this was an interesting bit of nostalgia thrown screaming into the 90's.

Zander Cannon's "No Man is an Island": Huh?

"I Was the Thing with Two Heads" was a cute bit of silliness that could have easily been a sketch on MONTY PYTHON or KID'S IN THE HALL. I'm going to take a wild guess that Mike Maddox is British. <G> Anyway, this was pretty amusing and Mike Perkins' provided some lovely art, as per usual.

The silliness of that was counter-weighted with the poignant "Cave Painting" by Jason Whitley that revolves around a child's discovery of a cave and how it affects him throughout his life. I liked this more than I thought I would, although I usually don't like "autobiographical" stories (real or fiction) unless they contain more humor such as PEEPSHOW or Peter Kuper's STRIPPED.

Robert Lewis' "Doors" seems like more filler. I guess it's better than an ad or a blank page.

I can't pick a favorite this issue, since I like different ones for different reasons: "An Empty Love Story" because it was hilarious; "The Factor" because it successfully combined superhero and crime genres while redefining both; and "Jinx", because it's by Brian Bendis. Actually, most of the full-length stories were good and this was an interesting mix from beginning to end. It seemed

to read a bit faster than usual, for some reason. Nice job.

JINX by Brian Michael Bendis is on sale now (actually issue two should already be out) for all those out there who may be curious in trying it out after the preview story back in #31. It's a great comic and I promise you that once you buy an issue you'll be hooked for life.

While you're at it, be sure to check out Mark Ricketts' NOWHERESVILLE. It's hip. It's happenin'. It's groovy.

Ben Meredith
Lampeter, Dyfed
United Kingdom

Dear Joe,

NEGATIVE BURN #32—
Brian Bolland cover art!! Damn you all, you market force manipulators, I just had to have it!

I liked "Survivors", this is the first time I've read anything by Joyce Brabner. I preferred her straight-forward narrative to anything I've read by her husband and found the subject matter compelling. Comics, like any arts medium, shouldn't be concerned solely with entertainment/escapism, the dissemination of information (especially that which mainstream reportage shrinks from) is important. I'd like to see more of this work in the future.

"The Wall" was interesting. Pink Floyd never did give their wall a reply to reply did they?

Hmm... Are you allowed to accuse chipmunks of spasticity? I'm the sure the Geneva Convention banned that sort of cheap slander.

The art on "Kilroy" was amazing and it was a well handled tribute to those who lost their lives. It's just a pity that such a fitting punishment can't be extended to those who use that pathetic "civilians always die in war" excuse, wherever they are and whatever the cause they claim to fight for.

"No Regrets" is improving. Carl's EVIL!

"You're Lying to Me"—God, the sheer annoyance of coming up with a cunning deception, really working on it, only to discover you didn't need to bother... (not that I'd ever consider defrauding my government on whatever level, that would be morally wrong.)

"Shades of Gray"—I really didn't like this. I thought it

would be a satire about these shallow people, too hypocritical to tell each other when their mutual company has become boring and oppressive. Instead, two sets of interpersonal relationships with matching drippy conversations and some nice Barbie & Ken art. Lovely. It's a sensitive relationship comic, innit? Just like Omaha (which I also hate) only instead of animalistic sex at every opportunity, there's these people who look like kids in fancy dress (fashionably rumpled thirtysomething clothing, naturally) discussing their angst under a starry sky. I really wanted some muggers/crack addicts/a-psychopath-of-your-choice to come along, if only to introduce aspects of reality to their cozy little situation. I'm genuinely sorry James J. Gownley, but I've just spent the last page being almost nice about other people's work and the strain was beginning to show. Thanks for giving me the chance to vent some invective, and I wish you every success with your target audience.

Oh yeah, "My Life as Riley." He moved the bed and now he isn't scared of the ghost in the bush. Sigmund bloody Freud...

I think you're missing the point with "Shades of Gray," Ben. Every story doesn't have to be violent, depressing or filled with despicable characters. "SoG" is about life, about growing up, about real emotions and feelings. I don't expect everyone to like it. Some will. Some won't. I just wanted to give readers a chance to sample it. Some will be picking up the series now, others, like yourself, won't. As always, the choice is yours to make.

Paul Dale Roberts
Sacramento, CA

Dear Negative Burn:

Wow! **NEGATIVE BURN #32** was not only dramatic in its depiction of real-life stories, it was spectacular! The black and white contrast of the stories really give it the realistic touch to these human dramas! One after another, I sat there digesting those stories like "Survivors," "Mr. Mamoulia," "The Wall," "Kilroy Is Here," "Nature of Reality" and more! These stories are told with a flair of genius. We don't need to watch TV and see these stories unfold. We have the story-telling done in perfection, right in this book with the

artwork to match! Reading "Survivors" was chilling as the violence is reflected in the horrors of Cambodia, this reminded me so much of the horror stories that my half-brother Andy Soyo would tell about his hellish days in Vietnam. Horrors upon horrors! Moving along I see the spiked metal collar worn in the story "Mr. Mamoulia." It shows the cruelty that man can inflict upon his fellow man. I will reflect my feelings on one more story. "Kilroy Is Here" shows the strength and heroism of firefighters. Firefighters are a tough breed that face danger every time a fire breaks out, sometimes the public takes them for granted. We need to take the story like "Kilroy Is Here" and the rest of the stories in **NEGATIVE BURN** and keep them close to our heart. If we can understand and try to find logic and reason in these stories, maybe, just maybe there is still hope for humankind. Your comic is fantastic on the edge of brilliance. I will anxiously be awaiting the next issue!

It's nice to know that there are others out there who feel that the stories we're telling of the cruel nature of the human race is worth writing about. Sure it's depressing, but it is life and needs to be seen. Thanks for writing in, Paul.

Andrew Troth
74663.3614@compuserve.com

NEGATIVE BURN #32.

The only standout in this issue is Stefan Petrucha and Craig Gilmore's "The Wall." There's also good stuff by Brian Bolland, Paul Fricke, Zander Cannon, Jeff Nicholson, and Matthew Smith, and a charming "Shades of Gray" story by James Gownley. I found the lead story hard to take because of Mark Badger's artwork, and the "Kilroy Is Here story" shallow and unsatisfying despite Troy Nixey's excellent artwork. The Steve Lieber sketchbook was fascinating.

I'm disappointed that you didn't like "Kilroy" or "Survivors," Andrew, but I'm happy that you seemed to like most everything else. Keep on sending me your reviews.

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June
1996

CALIBRATIONS #1

The first issue in a new on-going special 16 page Caliber comic for the unheard price of 99 cents. Warren Ellis and Ken Meyer, Jr. start off with a serial that runs the first five issues entitled "Atmospherics." Marc Andreyko and Jill Thompson bring a short of Caliber's upcoming series *The Lost*. 99¢

CAVEWOMAN: RAIN #3

Budd Root's surprise hit continues as it goes from bad to worse for Meriem and the time-displaced town of Marshville. A horrifying tornado touches down in the cretaceous grasslands causing a herd of Megasaurs to start a rampagin' stampede! \$2.95

CONSTRUCT #1

HELLBLAZER writer Paul Jenkins and Leo Durañona team-up to bring you the first of a six issue sci-fi series entitled CONSTRUCT. It starts on the planet Eden-- a long forgotten abandoned outpost of the once powerful human empire. The planet still harbors life in the form of machine intelligence...the Constructs. The Constructs search for meaning in the myths of mankind. Philosophy, religion and politics blended with science fiction action. \$2.95

DEODATO COMICS:

FALLOUT 3000 #1

It's a world gone wild in the year 3000, as the holocaust that wiped out most of the planet becomes but a memory. This was Mike Deodato's first published assignment and was written by his father, Mike Deodato, Sr. \$2.95

DOORMAN #4

In the jungles of Vietnam at the height of the war, Doorman must convince Bob Nichols, a vet, not to alter the past to prevent the dark secret that threatens his family twenty-five years in the future. This is the conclusion to this highly renowned mini-series. \$2.95

KABUKI: MASKS OF

THE NOH #2

David Mack, Dave Johnson, Brian Stelfreeze and Michael Avon Oeming continue this hot mini-series. Focusing on the agents of the Noh, this issue features Tigerily, Ice and Butoh. The plot thickens as the search for Kabuki continues in this pivotal set-up for the upcoming full color KABUKI

Series, coming in September. \$2.95

KILROY IS HERE #10

Relief worker, Cathy Basilone, journeys to help the people of war ravaged Somalia. She witnesses the senseless bloodshed, the disease-infested populace and the sudden appearance of the mysterious Kilroy. By Joe Pruett, with art by Swamp Thing's Phillip Hester! Cover art by Ken Meyer Jr. \$2.95

LEGENDLORE #4

Silverfawn's suppressed rage over the wrongs that have been done to her finally crescendoes as she and her allies break the goblin forces and hary them into retreat. Longing for outright vengeance, Fawn refuses to stop until every single goblin is killed, including Bonecrack. Joe Martin, Philip Xavier and Jason Baumgartner. \$2.95

MISTER X #2

Now within the bowels of Radiant City people are mysteriously becoming transparent and disappearing. No one seems to know what is causing this phenomenon, no one that is except Mister X. Can Mister X find a way to prevent the inhabitants of Radiant City from being terrorized? And who is behind this? Deborah Marks, Gene Gonzales and David Rowe. \$2.95

NEGATIVE BURN #36

This award-winning anthology continues its high standards. *Featuring: Volt 2000* by Jeff Parker, an upcoming Tapestry title *Boondoggle* by creator Steve Stegelin, and *Doorman* by Leonard and Lyle and many more in 64 pages! Cover by Jeff Parker. \$3.95

NEW WORLDS Anthology #3

The next issue of this hot new action/adventure anthology title. Featured: part three (of six) of the never-before-seen MISTER X serial. Other stories include final installment of *The Fringe* by Durwin Talon; the next chapter of *Anthrax*, another installment of *Little White Mouse* by Paul Sizer, and much more. Features a cover by *Beyond The Fringe* artist Durwin Talon. \$3.95

NOWHERESVILLE #2

Now here's a crime cocktail with a Beatnik twist. Chic Mooney is accused of the murder of underworld mob boss Frankie Vann and is forced to become a fugitive on the run. The mob wants to size up Chic for a 'cement overcoat' before the cops get him and the one person that could clear Chic's name is his rejected lover, Catherine DiPrima. Dig it, dad, it's strictly Nowheresville. By Mark Ricketts. \$2.95

OZ: ROMANCE IN RAGS #2 (of 3)

Continuing the story line set up by the original OZ team, Scraps the Patchwork Girl must decide whether her love for the Scarecrow is stronger than the spell that made him the Evil King. *Romance in Rags* features characters created by L. Frank Baum in his popular novels. By Ralph Griffith, Stuart Kerr and art by Bill Bryan. \$2.95

THE SILENT INVASION #2

Before the *X-Files*... Before *E.T.* and *Close Encounters*... There was an invasion... a SILENT INVASION. Reporter Matt Sinkage falls deeper into a tale of espionage, communism and an imminent alien invasion. What is his strange attraction to the beautiful Gloria Amber and how long will he have to lay low? By Michael Cherkas and Larry Hancock. \$2.95

LOOK FOR THE FOLLOWING BOOKS COMING IN JULY:

Michael Avon Oeming's
SHIP OF FOOLS

Caliber One Shot
SUSSEX VAMPIRE

David Mack's
KABUKI:DREAMS OF THE DEAD

And much more...

Check your local retailer first, but if you have difficulties locating CALIBER titles
call 1-800-346-8940 for order information

Caliber Forum

Please address your questions, comments or hold-faced lies to: CALIBER COMICS, 11904 Farmington Road, Livonia MI 48150 or you can E-buzz us at either: Calcomia@aol.com OR 75547.2267@CompuServe.com

First off, we'd like to

thank all of you -- consumers and retailers -- who have supported Caliber and it appears that quite a few people are sitting up and taking notice. We told you in a previous "Caliber Forum" that 1995 saw us double our overall sales...and with less titles!

Now, in '96, we've gained a lot of momentum. Budd Roof's *CAVEWOMAN* #1 was a great success for us in February and March saw "Crime Month" and the release of Mike Deodato's *RAMTHAR* #1. That was a great month for us! That is, until we saw April's orders. The sales nearly doubled March's orders!

The word is getting out. Again, thank you, and keep spreading the news! Tell your friends. Tell your customers. Hell, tell a stranger. Now, pay attention to some of our upcoming features:



Construct

JUNE. It's 48 pages for the price of 32 as you embark on this stunning saga of discovery, experience and faith lost and renewed. *CONSTRUCT* is philosophy, religion and politics blended with science-fiction action that is melded into a journey that goes beyond flesh and blood and into the very soul...the soul of machines. Scribed by the acclaimed writer of DC's *Hellblazer*, Paul Jenkins, and illustrated by Leo Durañona. NEW WORLDS.



Calibrations

JUNE. A comic for under a buck! For only 99 cents, you get a 16-page comic with two features: the first of a five-part serial by Marvel X-writer Warren Ellis entitled "Atmospherics" as illustrated by Ken Meyer, Jr., and a showcase feature every issue, as well. Among these: "The Lost", "Kaos Moon", "The War of the Worlds" and more.

Ship of Fools

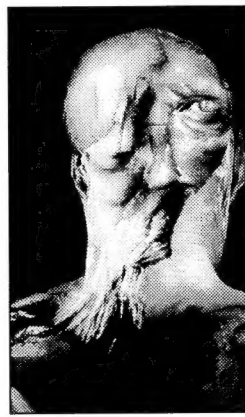
JULY. A band of miscreant outlaws drawn together by a common bond and parasitic symbiosis who survive as a group by feeding off each other!

Created and illustrated by former DC *Judge Dredd* artist Michael Avon Oeming and featuring covers by such notables as Mike Mignola, Tony Harris, Mike Allred and Dave Johnson. Written by Bryan J. L. Glass.



The Bandy Man

AUGUST. Keep an eye out for this surreal series by Topps' *X-Files* creative team, Stefan Petrucha, Charles Adlard and Miran Kim.



The Wretch

AUGUST. Perhaps the flat out weirdest comic book character of the nineties! It's Phillip Hester's *The Wretch*, and it's a must for Vertigo and *Heliboy* fans.



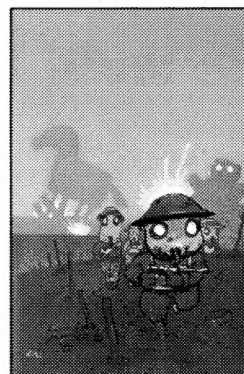
Daemonstorm Prologue

AUGUST. An introduction to an aberrant force that consumes all life. The first part of a BIG series by Joe Martin, Tim Parsons and comics veteran, Armando Gil.



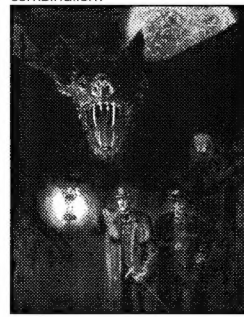
Kingdom of the Wicked

AUGUST. Welcome to the world of dreams. A surreal tale about dreams taking on lives of their own by Ian Edington and illustrated by D'sraeli. Very quirky. Very cool.



Scarlet in Gaslight

AUGUST. A faithful re-telling of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic tale. Adapted by Martin Powell and rendered by Seppo Makinen. Sherlock Holmes and vampires! How can you go wrong with that combination?



MORE AUGUST BOOKS THESE DREAMS...

NEW WORLDS. A compelling series, *DREAMLANDS* delves into the minds of six test-subjects who are part of an experiment gone wrong. By Dan Harbison and Randy Buccini.

ABOUT PETA...

The telling of how an organization grew from two people to over 400,000 continues this month in full color. A story about human interest scribed by Joyce Brabner and rendered by Mark Badger.

SEPTEMBER TITLES SHOW SOME SKIN!

David Mack launches his regular series with his ex-Noh agent's return in *KABUKI: SKIN DEEP*. It's full color and all of it's by Dave himself.

KAOS IN THE RING!

KAOS MOON is the new series from talented artist David Boller. We predict good things for this series. The intricate and polished artwork will guarantee to leave you breathless. Cool stuff.

ALIENS ARE COMING...

Get set for the debut of Randy Zimmerman and Horus' re-telling of a classic favorite, *THE WAR OF THE WORLDS*. Horus' detailed art can be seen in Caliber's *AUTUMN* series.

TIME-TRAVELING TEEN VS. REX!

Budd Roof's original pre-Caliber series is collected in one volume for your reading pleasure. *CAVEWOMAN* is a fun-filled romp in the Cretaceous hinterlands. People love it.

OCTOBER NEWS

A NEW ALL-AGES COMPANY...

This October will see the debut of a company founded by Caliber, entitled *TAPESTRY*. This is NOT an imprint, it is a separate company and will have a separate listing in the distributor catalogues. *TAPESTRY* will be geared toward an audience of all-ages. Kids and adults alike will be able to pick up any *TAPESTRY* comic book and read and enjoy. More information to follow in the coming months.

Today's Comics For Today's Audience

TAPESTRY



PAKKIN'S
LAND



Some of your favorite
independent comics have
united to save comickind.

BECAUSE
SOMEBODY
HAS TO!

Trollords
Boondoggle
Pakkin's Land
Explorers
Shades of Gray
The Hoon
Patty Cake
Dragonwing & Sparrow
Terror Tots
...and more!

OCTOBER 1996

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